

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:03 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Drew Satariano, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Brett Waterfield

Absent: Sarah Tong Sangmeister (excused)

Staff: Phil Hester, Director, Parks, Recreation and Marine
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Programs Bureau
Dave Ashman, Manager, Special Events and Filming Bureau
Lt. Joe Stilinovich, Park Rangers
Bill Greco, Acting Chief Park Ranger
Geoff Hall, Special Projects Officer
Cynthia Fogg, Superintendent, Citywide Youth Study
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Stacia Mancini, 5th District Council Office

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to excuse the absence of Commissioner Sarah Tong Sangmeister. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the October 19, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION FOR NOVEMBER

President Saltzgaver stated that Vice President Satariano would announce the Employee of the Month for November.

Vice President Satariano announced Karen Geib as Field Operations Employee of the Month for November.

Ms. Joy Warren, Community Services Supervisor over school-based programs in the Youth Services Division, spoke about Ms. Geib.

IV. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#06-1101

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau Manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

#06-1102

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A FACILITY USE PERMIT FOR FAMILY SPORTS CAMPS, INC.

Mr. Hester stated that Ms. Marshall and her staff have been working with this individual.

Ms. Marshall stated that these camps have been approved in the past and Mr. Joe Magno has a history of providing instructional clinics and camps through the little leagues. Mr. Magno now wants to partner with the Department and start doing camps at City facilities.

It was moved by Commissioner George and seconded by Vice President Satariano to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a facility use permit with Family Sports Camps, Inc. to operate a youth baseball camp from December 27, 2006 through December 29, 2006 at Blair Field. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that he met with Mr. Hester and discussed the agenda.

1) Discussion of off-site meeting locations.

President Saltzgaver stated that some time ago, the Commission met off-site once a quarter to visit some of the other park facilities. He said that this practice was stopped partially due to budget cuts. Due to the interest generated by the park tour last month, he thought that this would be a good time to start this practice again. In the package are some possible meeting places. He would like the Commissioners to bring some recommendations back to the meeting next month. President Saltzgaver stated that he suggests Bixby, MacArthur, and Veterans Parks and the Senior Center.

Vice President Satariano suggested that the committee meetings not be held when the Commission meets off-site. He also suggested that the Employee of the Month presentations be held only when the Commission meets at El Dorado Park.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet, but the information was included in the packet. He stated that Mr. Squires would give the final report next month.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee met and discussed a number of items and would be bringing an item regarding graffiti and tagging to the Commission in February 2007.

Mr. Bill Greco stated that the three park rangers, three Maintenance Operations Bureau staff, and Lt. Stilovich were involved with Operation Clean Sweep a few weeks ago. They painted over 364 items of graffiti. He thanked Tom Shippey, Ramon Arevalo, and Hurley Owens and their crew for their help.

President Saltzgaver stated that Operation Clean Sweep consisted of the Police Department, Public Works, and Code Enforcement going through North Long Beach cleaning up graffiti.

Mr. Hester stated that the City has turned graffiti abatement over to the Community Development Department. The new contractors guarantee a 24-hour response with paint that matches City buildings.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee did not meet this month; however, a quarterly report is included in the packet.

President Saltzgaver stated that he forgot to mention something earlier. He wanted to mention the Ethics training, which is required for all City Commissioners by the end of the year or they will be removed from their Commission.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Vice President Satariano, Chair

Vice President Satariano stated that the Committee meets quarterly and they did not meet this month.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no meeting this month. He said that at the November 14 City Council meeting, a one year extension was approved for the current joint use agreement. The City and the School District have a year to negotiate a new agreement.

President Saltzgaver stated that he would like to be notified of these quarterly meetings.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone stated that the Committee is in the process of meeting monthly, until they get where they want to be. He briefly discussed the issues discussed at the meeting and that they would be bringing draft policies before the full Parks and Recreation Commission in the future.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – OCTOBER 2006

President Saltzgaver asked for any questions on the monthly report. There were no comments or questions.

Commissioner Guerra asked about the cost of aquatic classes listed on page 15, if it was straight revenue or just profit. Mr. Hester responded that what was listed was straight revenue.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for October 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hester stated that staff will make the monthly report a standard receive and file item from now on, for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Saltzgaver stated that no correspondence was received.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOMELAND ADVISORY BOARD

Ms. Chrissy Marshall said that the new supervisor's official day was last Monday. He is looking at existing programs and where they need to go in the future. The Department is planning to set up meetings with the advisory group after the supervisor has had a chance to settle in first.

President Saltzgaver asked how the advisory committee members would be chosen. Ms. Marshall responded that staff has done an outreach to those interested. Some have also changed their mind. The City Council district office may have an opinion about the members also. The Department is receptive to everyone.

President Saltzgaver asked if there would be a selection process. Ms. Marshall responded no, the Department has never denied participation to any interested person to serve on a group or board.

Mr. Hester stated that there would be no formal appointment. This would only be an informal committee with all interested parties and appointing members would make it too formal.

Commissioner Livingstone stated that he preferred to call this an advisory group, instead of a board.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to support the establishment of a Homeland Advisory Group to Homeland Cultural Center programs. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. YOUTH MASTER PLAN UPDATE PRESENTATION – CYNTHIA FOGG

Ms. Cynthia Fogg gave an overview and said that they are only doing preliminary planning at this point. They looked at other communities and are particularly watching the City of Claremont, which was a leader in Youth Master Plan development. She explained the history of why a Youth Master Plan was requested, why a Youth Master Plan is needed for Long Beach, and how the ground work is set.

Commissioner Guerra asked if the City hasn't already been planning and doing these things for years? Ms. Fogg responded yes, the City has been working on this already, but a Youth Master Plan would bring the whole thing together. The City is now doing an excellent job in working in partnership with youth and now has a Commission on Youth and Children, which was a direct result of the strategic plan effort. There have been very positive things put in place. That Commission is currently not that empowered until they have some plan documented and have a responsibility to look at issues on a regular basis. This master plan will do just that. It will also define on how the City and Long Beach Unified School District will work together in the future.

Mr. Hester stated that the Youth Master Plan would bring everyone to the table to discuss issues between the City and the School District and would become part of the day-to-day process. This is very important and there is work to be done.

Ms. Stacia Mancini reiterated how important it is for City staff and School District staff to communicate about youth programs and shared use of the facilities.

President Saltzgaver said that he would call Mr. Meyer and discuss support of the plan. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission should be involved in the Youth Master Plan. President Saltzgaver stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission supports her 100% and this process could not go forward without her expertise.

Commissioner Guerra asked if a letter in support of the Youth Master Plan to the Mayor would help?

Mr. Hester responded that a support letter would help.

President Saltzgaver stated that he would draft a letter to the Mayor in support of the Youth Master Plan and meetings with the School District.

B. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Mr. Hester stated that information from the Special Olympics was included in the packet. They submitted a Request for Proposal to relocate their corporate headquarters in another city and are interested in Long Beach. They are also very interested in expanding their year-round program for athletes. The City has put together a task force to respond to this proposal. Mr. Geoff Hall has the responsibility for putting this proposal together and the City has requested letters of support from various organizations for the Special Olympics to move to Long Beach.

Mr. Geoff Hall showed a six-minute video on Special Olympics.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to authorize President Saltzgaver to sign a letter of support for the relocation of Special Olympics Southern California to Long Beach. The motion carried unanimously.

C. REPORT ON PROPOSITION 84, THE SAFE DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. Hester stated that a memo was included in the packet, similar to one sent to the Mayor and members of the City Council, concerning Proposition 84 and some of the various categories that are included. There are a lot of competitive funds available in a lot of categories for projects along the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers. This is a tremendous opportunity for Long Beach to receive funding. He said that this is more of an information document for the Commission.

D. REQUEST TO EXTEND DOG PARK WALKER PILOT PROGRAM AT RECREATION DOG PARK FOR 60 DAYS

Mr. Geoff Hall that on May 8, 2006, the Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a dog walker six-month pilot program. They also requested staff to investigate the possibility of implementing a permit for dog walkers to be allowed into Recreation Dog Park. The Special Events and Recreation Committee discussed the issue. The idea behind the permit is not to make

money, but to control the dog walkers. At this time, we are not looking to impose a specific limit on the number of dogs. However, the permit does provide that the Parks and Recreation Commission can set that limit and that the dog walkers must abide by that. The Department wants to get the permit in place first and will release this to the public for their comment. The reason for the extension is that the pilot program expires on December 12, and it would not be a good idea to begin this over the holidays. Due to the demands of the holiday season and the final permit conditions that need to be developed by the City Attorney, we are recommending that the pilot program be extended for a period of 60 days.

Mr. Hall said he would be attending the next Recreation Dog Park Association meeting to discuss with them.

President Saltzgaver stated that there needs to be another public meeting including the dog handlers.

Mr. Hall responded that he has a mailing list and he would be holding another public meeting. The best course of action is to just get the permit process in place and tell the dog handlers the conditions that they must abide by.

Vice President Satariano stated that the Special Events and Recreation Committee met and Mr. Hall has continued to do a very thorough job. There are additional pieces that the committee will be bringing to the full Parks and Recreation Commission in 2007, which will be pleasing to the dog owner community in Long Beach.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to extend the dog walker pilot program at Recreation Park by a period of 60 days. The motion carried unanimously.

E. REQUEST FOR EL DORADO PARK WEST T-BALL FIELD

Vice President Satariano said that he wants to be careful that this is not a conflict of interest and he was surprised there was no one here to represent the group. He has a son and will soon have a daughter playing in this league. Last year they switched from Little League to the Cal Ripkin Division of Babe Ruth, and they did a great job. What they are asking for is to build a T-ball field to take a little of the pressure off the other four fields and is in an area where they practice when the other fields are tied up. It is in an area where this is the only activity and he would like them to be allowed to go forward.

Mr. Shippey stated that staff met with the group at the location several times. Their plan does not call for any trees to be taken out and he is very pleased with this configuration. He said that the group would maintain the field and the

Department staff would maintain around the area. Department staff will help them relocate the irrigation lines and the group will build the field.

Commissioner Livingstone asked who will be scheduling games on the field? Mr. Hester responded that the Sports Office would schedule games on this field, with priority going to Los Altos Youth Baseball and Softball.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve the installation of a T-ball field at El Dorado Park West. The motion carried unanimously with Vice President Satariano abstaining.

X. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Hester stated that the Committee listing was updated and would be sent to the Commissioners.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Waterfield said he spent the day on November 9, at Wilson High School as Principal for the Day. One thing that came up was a new requirement for graduating seniors to have 40 hours of community service. A lot of students are struggling to get those hours in. He wondered if there were any conversations with the Department on that opportunity. He is going to work with California State University Long Beach to see about an opportunity there.

Ms. Marshall responded that the Department currently has a high volume of high school students volunteering their 40 hours at all the park facilities. She said she would put him in contact with the Department's volunteer coordinator to take care of any questions.

Commissioner Livingstone asked what was going on with restructuring Partners of Parks.

Mr. Hester responded that at a lot of phones calls are being made, asking for volunteers with Partners of Parks. No one has turned it down yet and they are very excited at the opportunity. There will be a Partners of Parks reception on November 27, and the Commission will be invited.

Commissioner Guerra wanted to follow up and make sure that staff knows what to do in case of an accident at the Skate Park on Wheels. Ms. Marshall responded that she has followed up with staff.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2006, at El Dorado Park West, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine